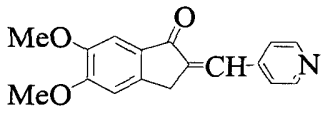
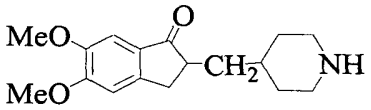
ABSTRACT

An efficient process for preparation of donepezil is provided. In one embodiment, the process for preparation of donepezil includes suspending a catalyst, which is palladium metal on carbon and the compound of the structure



(IV)

in an alcoholic solvent and hydrogenating the suspension at the hydrogen pressure of from about 1 to about 5 and a temperature of from about 40 to about 90° C till the hydrogenation reaction is substantially complete to obtain a compound of the formula (VI):



(VI)

which then converted to donepezil. The processes of the invention are believed to be simple, eco-friendly, and commercially viable.